

8 present time data generating means for generating present time data indicating  
9 a present time;

10 comparing means for comparing the [sales] period [read by said sales period  
11 reading means] with the present time [indicated by the present time data generated by  
12 said present time data generating means]; and

13 [purchase requesting] serving means for [requesting said center for purchasing]  
14 serving the content when said comparing means judges that the present time falls  
15 within the sales period.

cont. 1 2. (ONCE AMENDED) A [content sales period verifying system] terminal  
2 according to claim 1, [wherein said center distributes] further comprising: a single  
3 [piece of] medium, forming the content medium, storing a plurality of [encrypted] locked  
4 contents, each locked content provided [set] with a [sales] period[s] thereof and  
5 wherein the serving means supplies said terminal [having made the request for  
6 purchasing one of the contents] with a key for [decrypting] unlocking the content.

1 3. (ONCE AMENDED) A [content sales period verifying system] terminal  
2 according to claim [2] 1, wherein [effective period of said medium itself is set on said  
3 medium,

4 said terminal further comprises effective period reading means for reading the  
5 effective period of said medium itself,

6 said comparing means compares the effective period of said medium itself that is  
7 read by said effective period reading means with the present time indicated by the  
8 present time data generated by said present time data generating means, and]

9 said [purchase requesting] serving means [requests said] submits a request to a  
10 center [for purchasing] when [said comparing means judges that] the present time falls

11 within the [sales] period [and is anterior to the end of the effective period of said  
12 medium itself].

1 4. (ONCE AMENDED) A [content] sales [period verifying] system [according to  
2 claim 2, wherein said center comprises] comprising:

3 a terminal comprising:

4 period reading means for reading a period on a content medium  
5 indicating a period of time during which the content can be served by  
6 submitting a request to a center;

7 present time data generating means for generating present time  
8 data indicating a present time;

9 comparing means for comparing the period with the present time; and  
10 requesting means for submitting a request to the center for  
11 obtaining use of the content when said comparing means judges that the  
12 present time falls within the period; and  
13 the center comprising:

14 [a database registered with the sales period set on each content;  
15 database reading means for reading the sales period of the content  
16 from said database when said terminal makes the request for purchasing  
17 one of the contents;

18 determining means for determining whether the present time falls  
19 within the sales period read by said database reading mean; and]

20 key supplying means for supplying said terminal with a key for  
21 [decrypting] unlocking the content when [said determining means  
22 determines that] the [preset] the present time falls within the [sales]  
23 period.

1 5. (ONCE AMENDED) A [content] sales [period verifying] system according to  
2 claim [3] 4, wherein said center further comprises:

3 a database registered with the [effective] period of [said] the  
4 [medium itself and the sales period set on each] content;

5 [database reading means for reading the effective period of said  
6 medium itself and the content sales period from said database;

7 determining means for determining whether the present time is  
8 anterior to end of the effective period read by said database reading  
9 means, and whether the present time falls within the sales period read by  
10 said database reading means; and

11 key supplying means for supplying said terminal with a key for  
12 decrypting the content when said determining means determines that the  
13 present time is anterior to the end of the effective period and falls within  
14 the sales period].

1 6. (ONCE AMENDED) A [content sales period verifying system] terminal  
2 according to claim [4] 3, wherein [said center further comprising

3 period data adding means for generating period data indicating an effective  
4 period of the key and adding this item of period data to the key supplied to said  
5 terminal, and]

6 said terminal further comprises:

7 second comparing means for comparing the [key] effective period [indicated by  
8 the period data] with the present time [indicated by the present time data generated by  
9 said present time data generating means,] and determining whether the present time is  
10 within the effective period; [and

11 decrypting means for decrypting the content requested for purchasing when said  
12 second comparing means judges that the present time falls within the key effective period].

1 7. (ONCE AMENDED) A [content sales period verifying system] terminal  
2 according to claim [6] 2, wherein said terminal further comprises:

3 a disk [device] for storing the contents; and  
4 installing means for installing [the content decrypted by said decrypting means  
4 into said disk device] a loader for the content.

Cont. 1 8. (ONCE AMENDED) A [content decryption key effective period verifying]  
2 sales system according to claim 4, further comprising: [in a content distribution system  
3 for distributing encrypted contents and supplying terminals making requests for  
4 purchasing a content with key for decrypting the content,]

5 [a center comprising:]  
6 period data [adding] changing means for [generating] changing period data  
7 indicating a [key effective ] serving period of the contents [and adding the period data  
8 to the key,]; and

9 [said] wherein said terminal further comprising:  
10 [present time data generating means for generating present time data indicating  
11 a present time;]

12 second comparing means for comparing the [key] effective period [indicated by  
13 the period data] with the present time [indicated by the present time data generated by  
14 said present time data generating means] and determining whether the present time  
15 lies within the effective period; and

16 decrypting means for decrypting the content requested for purchasing when the  
17 purchasing when said comparing means judges that the present time falls within the  
17 key effective period].

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9. (ONCE AMENDED) A storage device readable by a computer, storing [an] a [encrypted] content [which is set with its] including a [sales] period concerning the content and a program [of instructions executably] executed by the computer [to perform method steps, said steps comprising:] which:  
     [reading] reads the [sales] period[:];  
     [generating] generates present time data indicating a present time; and  
     [comparing] compares the [sales] period with the present time [indicated by the present time data; and  
     requesting for purchasing the content when the present time falls within the sales period].

Please ADD the following new claims 10-14:

Sub 10  
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10. (NEW) A storage device readable by a computer, storing a content including a period concerning the content.

Sub 11  
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11. (NEW) A storage device according to claim 9, wherein the period is written as single terminal data indicating the starting or ending of the time interval.

Sub 12  
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12. (NEW) A computer program which performs the following functions:  
     reads a period, stored on a disk, indicating a period of time during which content on the disk can be served;  
     generates present time data indicating a present time;  
     compares the period with the present time; and  
     allows a user to use the content, when the present time falls within the period.